

Fair Work Amendment (Protecting Vulnerable Workers) Bill 2017

Answer to a question taken on notice by Mr Peter Strong of COSBOA, at a public hearing in Canberra, 12 April 2017, p. 7 Proof Hansard

Senator CAMERON: What about the proposition we have had here from the ACTU that, in accordance with the Productivity Commission's report and recommendation, we amend the act to make it clear that the Fair Work Act applies to all employees irrespective of their status under the Migration Act 1958. Do you agree with that?

The proposition that all employees are treated equally is one that we support. The issue is how do employees want to be treated? Employees who come from other countries often have different needs and desires. Their short term and long term aims are often different from resident employees. Our recommendation is that any potential changes are thoroughly investigated for any unintended impacts on business or on employees.